

# Enfield Street Pastors

## Newsletter

No.16. March 2019



Listening to concerns about the community.

Welcome to this, our 16th Newsletter. We trust you enjoy reading it, and through the testimonies get a feel of the breadth of activity we can be involved in on the streets of Enfield as we seek to serve our communities.

During the course of 2018, Enfield Street Pastors have been on patrol for around 680 volunteer hours, giving us contact with 982 people! Some of these contacts would be friendly conversations, but others would be opportunities to be of assistance. We have been able to help many people, mostly in small but meaningful ways – waiting with ladies on their

own at bus stops or seeing people into taxis. In addition, we have helped those who are vulnerable in some way - someone who has had too much to drink; under-age teenagers who want an 'exciting' evening out but, with no-where to go, can become vulnerable; a homeless person who needs a meal or direction to homeless services.

### Testimony

We saw a young guy sat on the edge of the pavement and enquired after his welfare, but his mate said he was OK. When we later saw him falling over trying to put his shoes on his mate still said he was OK, though he thanked us when pointed out his mobile on the pavement.

Because the Street Pastor uniform identifies us as Christians, people often come to us and ask us about the Christian Faith. As a result, we have had many meaningful conversations where we've had the opportunity to share our faith with people, in some cases giving them a Bible (a Street Pastors edition of the NIV with helpful guides and scriptures at the front), as well as other Christian literature. We have also prayed with many people. We are not pro-active in evangelism, but respond to these opportunities.

There has been a slight increase this year in the number anti-social behaviour incidents. We aim to be a calming presence in these situations, and have continued to see the power of prayer in helping to ease conflict and bring peace and harmony back to the community.

In the Summer Term we spoke about the work of Street Pastors to year 10 students as part of their RE GCSE course at a Senior School in Eastern Enfield. The work of Street Pastors, along with Food Banks, is part of the National Curriculum for RE GCSE, as an example of the Church doing positive things in the community.



## Testimony

We came across Jade who was crying and very upset. There was obviously conflict between her and George, her fiancé. He was swearing and very drunk. This wasn't helped by George's response to other guys who were acting in a provocative way towards him as they walked by. There was a lot of swearing and, though one guy tried to calm George down, he was obviously upset himself, and had a very low image of himself. We were able to comfort Jade, and speak to George about the way he saw himself. He said wanted to go for another drink, but we suggested this wasn't the answer and that he should take his girl home. We took the pair of them along to the 121 bus stop and saw them onto the bus home.

## Testimony

After our break we went back to the marketplace. There were two young ladies at the cash machine with a male friend standing by. Nearby, there was a young man who seemed to be spoiling for a fight being held back by his friend. We advised the two young ladies and their male friend to walk away, but instead the ladies went over to the other two guys, one of whom swore. The lady's male friend took offence at his swearing and phoned the police, though because of drink he was totally incoherent. We were able to intervene, speak to the Police, and stop the phone call on the basis that the two guys had walked off and all was quiet. It all ended peacefully.

## Recent Graduates

Last November we had two people graduating after completing their training. We send our congratulations to Kalpesh and Ngwiza, and welcome them to the team. We wish them well as they continue to work with us in Enfield.



Kalpesh



Ngwiza



Waiting at a bus stop late at night with a young lady on her way home

### Testimony

Across the road we met Sarah, sat on the floor outside Barclays. We know her from previous patrols as she waits for her partner who is working nearby. Tonight she was feeling fed up so one of the team sat with her to hear her story – her two year old son has been taken from her and is living with her dad. She's very upset about it all. She was happy for us to pray with her. We later spoke to her CJ, her partner – the two year old's dad. We prayed with him. A very needy situation.

## Prayer Team

Since we have Carol as our Prayer Coordinator, we have sensed a real difference now that we regularly have prayer from Carol and her team while we are out on patrol. We have four venues where the teams can meet; the prayer team can pray while the team is out; and where there are refreshments for a break during the patrol. Our thanks go to the four churches who are prepared to give us access to their premises for this purpose.

In addition Carol has a list of 30 people she sends a text to who will pray as a team is about to go on patrol. There are also around 62 people who receive the team reports each month and pray through the prayer points.

Points for prayer are updated every month on our website. You can use the link on our Facebook page - see back page for details.

Thank you to the team, and all our faithful prayer supporters. Prayer makes a difference!

## Funding

Our financial year is from 1<sup>st</sup> July. All our funding for the year came from churches (£1150) and individuals (£1641). Our total income was £3340.

Our main expenditure is the provision of uniforms for those training (£150.00 for a Street Pastor). Our total expenditure for the year was £1609, with a surplus of £1731, leaving us with a balance of £6824.

We remain very grateful to those individuals and churches that have a commitment to supporting us in this way, and express our thanks and appreciation.

If you wish to make a donation, please see the contact details on the back page. Thank you.

### Testimony

At the tube station we checked on a guy sat on the bench as he was surrounded by his drink. He seemed happy, so after a chat we moved on.

However, we noticed a group of younger guys hanging around, and one of them came over and asked the guy on the bench for a cigarette, so we kept an eye on them.

We walked round the bus station and then saw this group again. One of the guys was obviously out for mischief and went over to a parked bus and managed to open the door and start sounding the horn. Later, when the driver came back we went over and told him, which was a bit of a shock as it meant he hadn't secured the vehicle.

A while later we approached the guys, and giving them lollies opened the way for a chat until they got on buses and went home.

### Testimony

We noticed an older lady as she passed speaking tearfully into her phone. She said she was trying to make contact with her partner after having a domestic and breaking up. This seemed to be a very violent and abusive relationship, and she was broken by being constantly put down and belittled by this person. We listened while she took the opportunity to empty her bucket. After a while we asked if she needed a taxi, and suggested we take her to the station and help her book a taxi. On the way she continued to tell her story, and we sought to affirm her and counter the verbal put downs that were ingrained in her. We put her in the cab, and she was very grateful for the help we were to her.

## Testimony

Over in the market square we saw a lady trying to get money out of the ATM. We asked if she was OK, and she said she wasn't OK as her mate wasn't answering her calls. She stormed off. As she was quite drunk we followed at a distance as she went to another ATM. As she struggled with the machine, another lady came up and stood close behind her looking over her shoulder, so we asked her to step back and give the lady at the ATM some space and privacy.

We later noticed this other lady go straight up to a couple and start remonstrating with them, so we went over and asked if all was well. In conversation with the lady it was clear she wanted money, but later at the King's Head the security said she was known to them and they kept an eye on her.

## School Pastors

Unfortunately, at the end of the summer term we decided to put Enfield School Pastors on hold for the time being due to falling numbers.

We continue to meet ex-pupils who thank us for the patrols and for the difference it made to the school exit time, making the streets safer for their homeward journey.

## Testimony

We saw two girls near the Dugdale Centre and two guys who seemed to be bothering them, so we stopped and waited to see what was going on. The boys seemed to want the girls to go home with them but the girls seemed unwilling. We went over eventually and asked if they were okay, and the two guys ran off. The girls thanked us but said they didn't need any help now that the boys had gone. We were glad that we had gone over to them as the girls were quite drunk and the guys may have taken advantage of that fact.

Later, we went back to check on the two girls, and they were still there hanging on the railings near the Dugdale Centre. We asked if we could help them to get home and they agreed to let us help support the one who was really drunk. We walked them along to the Catholic convent where one of them lives. They explained they are Polish and haven't seen each other for a year so they had been out to celebrate. We were very glad we had been there at the right time to help them.



## Testimony

As we were leaving, thinking it was a quiet evening, a young guy choked on his drink and began to be sick. He broke his glass in the process so, as he began to kneel on the pavement, we managed to move him away from the broken glass and get him to a safe place off the pavement. After a while he stood up and said he was fine. We furnished him with tissues and a bottle of water.

## Ever Onwards...

We regularly meet people who say how appreciative they are for what we do. They know we're looking out for them.

If you would like to be a part of this ministry you can do so in four ways:

- ◆ By training to be a Street Pastor.
- ◆ By becoming a Prayer Partner.
- ◆ By helping us financially.
- ◆ By inviting us to give a talk in your church or group.

To follow this through, please contact John Rawding.  
Coordinator for Enfield Street & School Pastors.

If you would like a copy of our Annual Report and Accounts please email us.

Our email address is:  
[enfield@streetpastors.org.uk](mailto:enfield@streetpastors.org.uk)  
Our phone number is: 020 8886 3786 or  
Text 07982 197505

See us on Facebook: 'Enfield Street Pastors'  
Visit [www.streetpastors.org/locations/enfield](http://www.streetpastors.org/locations/enfield)